

# Indiana State Board of Education



David Dickson, Ph.D., Hammond  
Sandra Kirts Cantrell, Columbus  
Robert Kovach, Mishawaka

Suellen Reed, Ed.D., Chair  
Susan Brace, Fort Wayne  
Connie Blacketter, Rensselaer  
Robert Lazard, Indianapolis  
Daniel Tanoos, Terre Haute

Darvin Stilwell, Boonville  
J. Gordon Pendleton, Corydon  
Randle Pollard, Indianapolis

## MINUTES

### INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 7, 2004  
Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
Indianapolis, Indiana

The discussion session of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Board members Susan Brace, Robert Lazard, Sandra Kirts Cantrell, Connie J. Blacketter, Randle Pollard, Darvin Stilwell, Daniel Tanoos, and Dr. David Dickson were present. Board members Dr. Suellen Reed, Robert Kovach, and J. Gordon Pendleton were not present.

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Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, gave board members copies of education issues for discussion during meetings with members of the General Assembly. Board members are scheduled to meet throughout the day with Senator Garton, Senator Sipes, Senator Simpson, Representative Espich, Representative Pond, and Leslie Hiner, General Counsel for House Republicans.

Board members were invited to attend the Senate Education committee meeting scheduled for 1 p.m.

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Mr. Zaring discussed revised graduation requirements and the American Diploma Project.

Both the State Board of Education and Education Roundtable have expressed interest in reviewing Indiana's high school graduation requirements. Board members discussed *High School Diploma Course Requirements: A National Review*, provided by the American Diploma Project.

Board members discussed proposed new high school diploma requirements regarding:

- Minimum requirements.
- Core 40 requirements.
- Core 40 with Academic Honors requirement.

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Board members have a particular concern about math requirements. Students would be required to complete a minimum number of math credits in high school, regardless of how many credits they earn prior to entering high school. This seems to “penalize” students who complete Algebra I, and even Geometry I, in middle school.

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The discussion session recessed at 9:50 a.m. for meetings scheduled with members of the General Assembly. The discussion session reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

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Mr. Zaring discussed Education Week's annual *Quality Counts* report. Indiana's K-12 education system was rated against other states and the District of Columbia, on the condition of public education.

States were rated in five areas:

| Category                             | Indiana's Grade |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Standards and Accountability       | A-              |
| • Efforts to Improve Teacher Quality | B               |
| • School Climate                     | C+              |
| • Resources: Adequacy                | B+              |
| • Resources: Equity                  | C               |

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Board members discussed their meeting with members of the General Assembly. The general consensus was that the meetings were positive and productive.

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Board members discussed the release of the Department of Education's 2004 Legislative Agenda including:

- A bullying prevention and awareness initiative (as covered by SB 231).
- Resolving transfer tuition funding for students in group homes, foster homes, etc.
- An initiative of the Indiana Promise Consortium supporting teacher and principal recruitment and retention in hard-to-staff schools.
- A resolution urging the legislature to become familiar with the components of Indiana's P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement and its blueprint for K-12 education in Indiana.

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The discussion session adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

